

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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INFORMATION

June 11, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. KISSINGER
FROM: WILLIAM L. STEARMAN
SUBJECT: Communist Cease-fire Violations

Attached at Tab A is the CIA/DIA weekly report (June 1-7) on Communist cease-fire violations in Indochina. The report notes that only a few civil and military specialists started South in the past week but for the first time since last November a regular infiltration group has been detected heading for the Plaine Des Jarres area of Laos. (Post cease-fire infiltration total for South Vietnam remains at 50,000.) Logistics activity continues in decline in the Lao Panhandle but moderately heavy traffic is still observed in northern South Vietnam. The following are the reports highlights:

-- The North Vietnamese are continuing a major effort in the Lao Panhandle to complete a 300-mile all-season high capacity route from the passes to the tri-border area. While the North Vietnamese clearly intend to retain their road networks in south Laos, the shift of another NVA logistics regiment from the Panhandle into the central Highlands indicates that Hanoi is placing increased emphasis on its South Vietnamese corridor, at least during the present rainy season. (The eastward redeployment of two other major units were previously reported.)

-- NVA deployments elsewhere indicate that a number of units are making significant moves from one to another area within Indochina. For example, according to a late report an NVA antiaircraft regiment (the first AAA regiment detected so far south) crossed in March from Cambodia into South Vietnam's MR-3, while one, possibly two, infantry regiments from the NVA 5th Division have moved from MR-4 to MR-3. In Laos, the NVA 102B regiment may be relocating from Saravane to North Vietnam and at least two NVA SAM regiments have moved farther south in the North Vietnamese Panhandle.

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-- Continuing the downward trend since the rainy season began, observed NVA logistic activity during the reporting period was extremely light over the entire Laotian Panhandle. Although some cargo is still being moved in most areas of southern Laos, only small numbers of vehicles are being observed. Within the northern areas of South Vietnam, where inclement weather is not a factor until later this year, moderately heavy Communist logistic activity is still in progress. A substantial volume of activity also continues to be observed in the southern part of the North Vietnam Panhandle.

-- In combat activity, major Communist-initiated cease-fire attacks rose from 80-86 in South Vietnam while in Laos small Communist incidents were reported in the North.

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